

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the present Application. By this Amendment, Applicant editorially amends claim 2. The amendment to claim 2 was made for reasons of precision of language and consistency. By this amendment, Applicant also adds new claims 5-13. Ample support for the newly added claims can be found throughout the specification.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the receipt of priority documents submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Applicant further thanks the Examiner for initialing the information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on March 3, 2004 and November 17, 2006. Additionally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the drawings filed on March 3, 2004.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sayanagi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,355,440). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

With regard to claim 1, Sayanagi fails to disclose, or even suggest, at least a method of “deriving a color conversion relation between a first color space and a second color space, ... comprising: an area forming step that forms a plurality of areas filling the first color space.”

Instead, Sayanagi simply teaches calculating printing dot area ratios of the color components necessary to produce a target color. (See col. 1, lines 32-38). That is, Sayanagi is directed to the physical areas of printing dots, representing the amount of each color component necessary to create the appearance of a target color when the color components are mixed.

Moreover, as shown in FIG. 4, area ratios of the printing dots are calculated after the color signal data is converted from the first color system (such as the RBG color system) to a second color system, different from the first color system (such as the XYZ color system). (See, Col. 12, ll. 50-55; Specifically, Color Converter 13 sending the converted XYZ signal to the Dot-Area Ratio Calculating Unit 15). As such, calculation of the area ratios of the printing dots cannot be a part of the color conversion between the first and second systems.

Conversely, the area forming step of claim 1 is part of the color conversion relation deriving method. For at least the above reasons Applicant respectfully asserts that Sayanagi does not anticipate claim 1.

With regard to claim 2, this claim depends from independent claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 2 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

With regard to claim 3, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 3 is allowable for at least the reasons analogous to those recited with respect to claim 1.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sayanagi in view of well known principles in the image processing art of using computers as a color conversion apparatus. Applicant respectfully disagrees and asserts that claim 4 is allowable for at least the reasons analogous to those recited with respect to claim 1.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/791,385

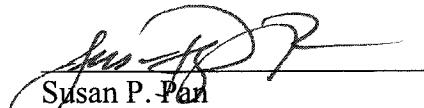
Attorney Docket No.: Q80073

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS).

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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